

SECTION I—CLAIMS

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Claims 1-27 are canceled herein without prejudice. New claims 28-54 are presented herein. Claims 28-54 remain pending in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-27. (Canceled).

28. (New) A method in a test control program comprising:

sending a plurality of predetermined inputs to a first instance of an application operating at a business layer within a multi-tier application architecture;

receiving a plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application responsive to the predetermined inputs; and

associating each output with one of the predetermined inputs, each output establishing a proper response from the application to compare with results from a second instance of the application.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

storing the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs in an application independent format.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein storing the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs in the application independent format comprises:

translating the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs into a geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format based on a predefined Extensible Markup Language

("XML") schema.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

providing the plurality of predetermined inputs in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format to a presentation layer associated with the application, the presentation layer preparing the predetermined inputs according to predefined presentation logic and generating presentation layer output responsive to the plurality of predetermined inputs provided; and

comparing the presentation layer output with the plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

storing the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs within a test library, wherein the test library is accessible via a test script, the test script used to test the second instance of the application.

33. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the second instance of the application comprises an application under test, wherein the application under test is used to generate test results for comparison with the plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application.

34. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

sending the plurality of predetermined inputs to the second instance of the application via a Uniform Resource Locator ("URL"), wherein sending the plurality of predetermined inputs via the URL comprises sending the plurality of predetermined inputs to the business layer of the application, bypassing a presentation layer associated with the application.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising:

receiving test results from the second instance of the application; and

comparing the test results with the plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising:

specifying via the URL, a network location accessible to the second instance of the application to store test results generated in response to the plurality of predetermined inputs sent to the second instance of the application.

37. (New) A test control system comprising:

means for sending a plurality of predetermined inputs to a first instance of an application

operating at a business layer within a multi-tier application architecture;

means for receiving a plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application responsive to the predetermined inputs; and

means for associating each output with one of the predetermined inputs, each output establishing a proper response from the application to compare with results from a second instance of the application.

38. (New) The test control system of claim 37, further comprising:

means for storing the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs in an application independent format.

39. (New) The test control system of claim 38, wherein storing the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs in the application independent format comprises:

means for translating the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs into a geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format based on a predefined Extensible Markup Language ("XML") schema.

40. (New) The test control system of claim 39, further comprising:

means for providing the plurality of predetermined inputs in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format to a presentation layer associated with the application, the presentation layer preparing the predetermined inputs according to predefined presentation logic and generating presentation layer output responsive to the plurality of predetermined inputs provided; and

means for comparing the presentation layer output with the plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application.

41. (New) The test control system of claim 37, further comprising:

means for storing the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs within a test library, wherein the test library is accessible via a test script, the test script used to test the second instance of the application.

42. (New) The test control system of claim 37, wherein the second instance of the application comprises an application under test, wherein the application under test is used to generate test results for comparison with the plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application.

43. (New) The test control system of claim 37, further comprising:

means for sending the plurality of predetermined inputs to the second instance of the application via a Uniform Resource Locator ("URL"), wherein sending the plurality of predetermined inputs via the URL comprises means for sending the plurality of predetermined inputs to the business layer of the application, bypassing a presentation layer associated with the application.

44. (New) The test control system of claim 43, further comprising:

means for receiving test results from the second instance of the application; and

means for comparing the test results with the plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application.

45. (New) The test control system of claim 43, further comprising:

means for specifying via the URL, a network location accessible to the second instance of the application to store test results generated in response to the plurality of predetermined inputs sent to the second instance of the application.

46. (New) A computing device having test control instructions stored thereon that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

sending a plurality of predetermined inputs to a first instance of an application operating at a business layer within a multi-tier application architecture;

receiving a plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application responsive to the predetermined inputs; and

associating each output with one of the predetermined inputs, each output establishing a proper response from the application to compare with results from a second instance of the application.

47. (New) The computing device of claim 46, wherein the test control instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

storing the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs in an application independent format.

48. (New) The computing device of claim 47, wherein storing the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs in the application independent format comprises:

translating the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs into a geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format based on a predefined Extensible Markup Language

("XML") schema.

49. (New) The computing device of claim 48, wherein the test control instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:
- providing the plurality of predetermined inputs in the geographic-neutral and linguistic-neutral format to a presentation layer associated with the application, the presentation layer preparing the predetermined inputs according to predefined presentation logic and generating presentation layer output responsive to the plurality of predetermined inputs provided; and
- comparing the presentation layer output with the plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application.
50. (New) The computing device of claim 46, wherein the test control instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:
- storing the plurality of predetermined inputs and associated outputs within a test library, wherein the test library is accessible via a test script, the test script used to test the second instance of the application.
51. (New) The computing device of claim 46, wherein the second instance of the application comprises an application under test, wherein the application under test is used to generate test results for comparison with the plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application.
52. (New) The computing device of claim 46, wherein the test control instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:
- sending the plurality of predetermined inputs to the second instance of the application via a Uniform Resource Locator ("URL"), wherein sending the plurality of predetermined

inputs via the URL comprises sending the plurality of predetermined inputs to the business layer of the application, bypassing a presentation layer associated with the application.

53. (New) The computing device of claim 52, wherein the test control instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

receiving test results from the second instance of the application; and

comparing the test results with the plurality of outputs from the first instance of the application.

54. (New) The computing device of claim 52, wherein the test control instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

specifying via the URL, a network location accessible to the second instance of the application to store test results generated in response to the plurality of predetermined inputs sent to the second instance of the application.